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Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 19, 1927

Mrs. Lieber E. Whittic

of Syracuse, New York, who was recently elected chairman of the New York State Branch of the National Woman's Party. Mrs. Whittic has long been a worker for Equal Rights and has rendered valiant service to the Party.

Feminist Notes

Equal Franchise Postponed

THE British Government has announced that it will not bring in the Equal Franchise bill until after Christmas, thus postponing again the enfranchisement of women on equal terms with men. The Government still promises, however, that women shall attain equality in the franchise before the 1928 general elections.

Woman Motion Picture Producer

IN Mrs. Charles E. Hines of Forest Grove, Oregon has a motion picture producer who is turning out films showing the beauties of this State and the Northwest country. Mrs. Hines employs her own cameraman, selects the scenes to be taken, directs the photography and the tinting, writes her titles, reads the films, and does her own booking.

Mrs. Hines undertook her work as a producer of motion pictures just two years ago. Before that time she had directed her talents to painting and to writing short stories and poetry.

For Equal Opportunities in Industry

EQUALITY of opportunity for women in industry, and the discarding of traditions concerning the inability of women to do physical work were urged by Marguerite B. Benson, director of the Women's Bureau of the National Manufacturers' Association, one of the two final speakers before the annual meeting of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts.

Mrs. Benson quoted figures showing that there are 9,000,000 women taking part today in all but 35 of the 572 recognized occupations. Her list included five secretaries of States, 140 members of the various legislatures, a Supreme Court and Circuit Court judge, 4,950 managers or overseers of factories, 5,340 bankers or money lenders, and 10,075 college professors or presidents.

"I resent the idea that woman in industry is something to be pitied," Mrs. Benson declared. "Through the ages woman has performed the most arduous and monotonous of tasks on the farm and in the home. Women were the first manufacturers, doing their work in the home.

"It was there that her economic contribution was made. But since modern invention has made these home tasks less laborious, and has made access to the cities easier, she has been forced to make her economic contribution in a new location. Men, by their invention, have taken the work out of the home, and women are but following where they have taken it."

"Crashing the Gate"

THE November issue of the *United States Naval Institute Proceedings*, a monthly publication for the advancement of professional, literary, and scientific knowledge in the navy, contains an article on Ships' Figureheads, by Constance L. Lathrop, librarian of the Navy Department's Library. This is the first instance of a woman's having an article accepted in this staid magazine edited by naval officers. Mrs. Lathrop, the widow of Paymaster P. T. M. Lathrop, U. S. N., who died while attached to the United States Naval Mission to Brazil, after taking a position as library assistant in the office of naval records and library navy department, has, by dint of perseverance and study, worked her way up to a position as librarian of some 80,000 books and head of a research force that must be able to answer the multitude of questions on naval subjects propounded by people from all over the United States, as well as by the secretary and officers on duty at the Navy Department.

As an example of Mrs. Lathrop's duties, it might be cited that when Famous Players-Lasky conceived the idea of producing the film "Old Ironsides," their research department called on the Navy Department to answer the many questions regarding uniforms, customs, *et cetera*, of 1804, together wth plans of the Constitution and other naval ships taking part in the suppression of the Tripolitans. Answers to most of these questions were prepared after much research on the part of Mrs. Lathrop and her assistants.

This feat of a woman's "crashing the gates" of a strictly man's periodical is an example of woman's determination to establish herself on an equal footing with man in all lines of human endeavor.

Equal Pay Denied in Perth

WOMEN school teachers of Perth, Australia, 1,500 in number, recently made a claim for equal pay for equal work, but the appeal board denied their claim. The judge admitted that women did work equal to the men's, but held that economic exigency would not allow justice.

Women of Cuba Enfranchised

CUBA has granted the parliamentary vote to women on equal terms with men by a vote of 94 to 8 in the Chamber of Representatives. Cuba is the first Latin-American country to grant national franchise to women.

For Married Woman's Right

A COUNCILLOR of the Haute-Garonne province has introduced a resolution in the Council General to remove the disabilities of married women established in the Code Napoleon. This resolution makes the rights of the married woman equal to the rights of married men.

Women in Finnish Government

OF the two hundred deputies in the Finnish Parliament, eighteen are women. Twelve of the sixty-one Socialist deputies are women. In the Government itself, there is for the first time an auxiliary woman Minister of Social (Welfare) Questions, Mina Sillanpaa.

Equal Rights Bills in Austria

THE Socialist deputies, Adelhaide Popp and Mme. Proft, have introduced in the National Council of Austria a bill to improve the position of women in the family. This bill provides that the special privileges now accorded to the husband and father shall be changed so as to give the same rights and the same duties to both husband and wife, thus replacing *paternal* right by *parental* right. The bill proposes, moreover, to revise the provisions concerning the nationality of a woman in order that she may, when marrying a foreigner, be free either to keep her own citizenship or to take that of her husband.

Women Journalists in Bombay

THE ever-increasing number of women graduates of Bombay University find very little scope for their talents outside the education department and the medical profession.

Two of these graduates, however, Tara Tilak and Piroj Anandkar, have launched into journalism as a career. They have started a monthly in Marathi under their joint editorship, known as *Griha Luxmi* (housewife) which aims at teaching Marathi girls how to be successful housewives.

Miss Tilak, who is a devoted student of sociology, and Miss Anandkar, who is interested in the education of girls in Bombay, have ample scope for their enthusiasm and energy in this direction, and judging from the standard of the articles which have appeared in the first few issues of Griha Luxmi and the list of university women who have promised to contribute to its pages, their venture should prove a useful link between university women and their less educated sisters, comments the *Christian Science Monitor*.

An International Code of Inequality

A REVIEW in *La Francaise* of the "Code Social," which has recently been issued by the *Union International d'Etudes Sociales,* a Catholic organization formed in 1920 at Malines, calls attention to points in which this international code is opposed to the aims of the international woman movement.

The code is quoted as follows: "The father is the natural head of the family. The mother is associated (with him) in this authority. She is called upon to exercise it in the absence of a father."

The reviewer comments: "Thus the authority of the father, head of the family, remains complete. The mother is no more than an 'associate.' The 'Code Social,' taking the family as a unit, makes no place for the woman as an individual.

"How can this be reconciled with the principle of woman's emancipation, equality of civil and political rights for the two sexes, equal parental rights for father and mother? Are these aims in harmony even with Catholic doctrine? It cannot be said that they are.

"The 'Code Social' declares (Art. 31) that to guarantee its rights the family must be represented in local, regional, and national assemblies, by giving to the father, for example, a number of votes proportioned to the importance of the household for which he is responsible. Thus, in case of the adoption of a family vote, the father alone would cast it.

"Apparently, however, there is nothing which expressly forbids the casting of an individual vote by the woman. The Feminist movement has not manifested itself in its full scope until recent years, and apparently the problem has not yet been examined from the woman's point of view by the *Union de Malines.*"

Among Women's Privileges

By Anita Pollitzer

(Reprinted from the New York Sun of November 5, 1927.)

THAT "wives as well as husbands may be required to pay alimony in at least seven States of the Union" is one of the amazing facts revealed by Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews, head of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party, who has just completed the most comprehensive survey ever made of the present legal status of women in the United States.

And what is more, Mrs. Matthews says she thinks alimony should work both ways. In spite of the fact that this young woman is in her early thirties, she is vice-president of the National Women Lawyers' Association and for six years has directed the corps of women lawyers who have worked in the Congressional and Supreme Court law libraries gathering data on the position of women under the law.

"The trend of legislation for years has been toward imposing the responsibility of maintenance upon both parties in the marriage," Mrs. Matthews explained. "Massachusetts, Ohio, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington are among the States where the wife as well as the husband may today be required to pay alimony. The alimony laws of Oregon and Iowa read exactly alike for both sexes.

"This is not something that just 'stands on the statute books'—it happens! In Iowa there was a case where, although the wife won her divorce suit, the court ruled that she must pay her husband $200 a month alimony until he got a position; he had been manager of her hotel and she had dismissed him. In California, although there is no alimony statute for husbands, there is a law which says husband and wife owe each other support. In a recent case the court ordered a wife earning $150 a month working in a bank to pay temporary alimony to her husband, who was ill. The judge said, 'This couple married for better or for worse. The wife will have to pull a double load for a while, for marriage is a case of give and take.'

"Women are perfectly willing to give and take," says Mrs. Matthews. "It would be far better it they would establish an economic basis of give and take, a sensible division of profits as the years go along; then if the marriage breaks up they would not be in the humiliating position of taking alimony, which is in reality a fraction of the money that the wife has for years helped to earn.

"There was a case I read recently which made me so indignant. It happened in Montana. Both the husband and the wife were suing for divorce; neither on a serious ground. Both had worked together for years in a bakery which they owned. The court was most undecided which, if either of them, was at fault. Finally they said that the husband was probably less at fault than the wife, so they granted him the divorce. Since the wife was the divorced party she could not get alimony; and since he was the husband the entire business they had built up together was his. So after all of her years working in the home and in the bakery and receiving no recompense for either, in middle age, when the partnership ceased, she suddenly found herself without a home, without a business, without a cent of pay or back pay. This in spite of the two jobs she had held down all her life.

"I am not talking about this woman's right to alimony," Mrs. Matthews said determinedly, "but this is just one more example of the fact that wives should not be dependent on alimony, and would not be, if the property and profits acquired by their joint efforts were considered as joint. To no one but a wife could this happen in the law.

"When the wife is self-supporting and has not given up her profession or occupation on account of marriage I can't see why she should want to take or be entitled to alimony. The husband's share of the obligation for the support of children is, of course, a totally different thing. This is a mutual obligation.

"In this country the majority of States have equal penalties for non-support, making it an offense for the mother as well as the father to neglect to maintain the children. Perhaps the average woman does not realize that, even though she hasn't Equal Rights, when it comes to responsibilities she is quite a person in the eyes of the law. In certain States today the wife is liable for family expenses. A case in Iowa even went so far as to include a diamond stud for the husband under this head.

"As to alimony for husbands, why not?" asks Mrs. Matthews. "In case a wife is financially able to pay and the husband through some misfortune has lost his money or ability to earn, as between his being supported by the public or by his wife, certainly she should insure to him that support which she would get from him if the situation were reversed. A fifty-fifty principle of Equal Rights is a pretty safe basis to go on, in law and in life," said Mrs. Matthews, "and it behooves us to examine our 'special privileges,' such as support and alimony, one by one, to see if in the light of fact they become not so 'special' as we have been led to believe."

Mrs. Matthews is former president of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, a member of the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States, Mississippi and the District of Columbia, and a practicing attorney in Washington.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 11.]
House Joint Resolution Number 81.

Introduced in the Senate, December 8, 1925,
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.
Introduced in the House of Representatives,
December 16, 1925,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

Let Us Be Thankful

A HUNDRED years ago, almost to the moment, in Hartford, Connecticut, a deeply religious young woman, swathed in mourning garments, decided that after all, in spite of all, there was something for which to be thankful. During the previous September she had, in the face of every precedent to the contrary, opened a "female academy" in her native city, for the higher education of such members of her own sex as were "disposed to erudition." By Thanksgiving time it was clear that the enterprise was destined to be successful, so Miss Beecher (for the young woman was none other than the famous Catherine Esther) laid aside her mourning garments, took her pen in hand, and with her quaint little pamphlet on "Suggestions Respecting the Improvement of Female Education" began her long career as writer and educator.

Miss Beecher, it will be remembered, was betrothed at the age of nineteen years to Professor Fisher of Yale, who shortly after lost his life at sea. She never married, but dedicated herself to the advancement of woman's education.

In her "True Remedy for the Wrongs of Women," published in 1851, we may ourselves see plentiful reasons wherefore to celebrate wholeheartedly our national festival.

It is amazing to be reminded, for example, that in the English colonies in America no provision whatsoever was made for the secondary education of girls outside the home, or that the first girls' high school in this country was established in 1826. It failed, and Miss Beecher tells us why, but it was re-established in 1852, and that among other things constitutes one reason why we should be thankful.

All that is necessary to fill the heart of any woman today with gratitude is one long comprehending look backward over the past century. No other portion of the human family has within a like increment of time won such astounding victories as have women, nor advanced so magnificently the outer boundaries of human liberty.

We who today enjoy not only a high school, but a college, and even a professional education, may well rejoice that 19 instead of 18 prefixes our '27. But the true spirit of thankfulness not only acknowledges a gift; it bears within it also the fruitful seed of reciprocation. As we hold dear the measure of Equal Rights that has become ours through the toil and sacrifice of earlier women, so let us resolve in our turn to do our share toward setting still further forward the outposts of women's freedom.

Then at last may the ancient prayer voiced by the men of a certain people, "I thank God (thrice daily) that I was not born a woman," be changed to a more general jubilation, "I thank God that I was born a human being."

East of Suez

OCCIDENTAL nations have become so accustomed to women's stepping out and achieving the heretofore impossible that it has not occasioned even a riffle of excitement for Liverpool, England, to elect a woman as Lord Mayor. Almost anyone in Liverpool will tell you that it was the obvious thing for the City Council to choose Miss Margaret Bevan as Lord Mayor, for she was the best-equipped person in the city for the post.

East of Suez, however, sex has not to any such desirable extent been eliminated from politics. At just about the time that "Liverpool's little mother" was being acclaimed for her lifetime of work for her fellow citizens another public-spirited woman in Tokio was seized by the police for trying to present a suffrage petition to Emperor Hirohito as he approached his palace gates in a high-powered car. Her petition asked the Emperor "with reverence" to accord patriotic women the same political rights as men, and called attention to the fact that she had not even been allowed to vote as proxy for her sick husband in the recent elections.

While these two cases appear to stand at opposite poles, so far as the success of Feminism is concerned, yet we believe that our sister in Tokio is almost a better index of the true strength of the Feminist movement than is the Lord Mayor herself. When women, east of Suez, become militant enough to demand their rights, even of sacred Emperors, little doubt remains as to the outcome of the movement.

Let our sisters in the Orient take cheer. It is not long since women in England (and in America too) were being taken up by the police for attempting to present suffrage petition to their rulers. The election of a woman as Lord Mayor of Liverpool is only a by-product of the same spirit now appearing in Tokio.

Congressman McLeod and the Equal Rights Amendment

CONGRESSMAN CLARENCE J. McLEOD of Detroit, Michigan, has offered to lead an intensive campaign in the House of Representatives for the prompt adoption of the resolution for the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

A delegation of Michigan women talked with Congressman McLeod in his Detroit office on November 5, and he declared that he believed that this session of Congress should send the Equal Rights Amendment to the States for ratification, and began making immediate plans for work toward that end.

The deputation included Mrs. W. A. McGraw, chairman of the Michigan State Branch of the Woman's Party; Margaret Whittemore, member of the National Council; Emma Fox, parliamentarian; Marjory Miller Whittemore; Bessie Moton Garner, an able young attorney; Mrs. Walter Nelson; Agnes Palmer, formerly associated with the Woman's Department of the Federal Employment Bureau in Detroit; and Lucia Grimes.

Mrs. Fox outlined the long struggle of women for equality in this country, and pointed out that today women have equality with men throughout the United States only in the exercise of the franchise. Mrs. Whittemore outlined the legal disabilities of women in Michigan, and told of the heavy cost of trying to win Equal Rights by State legislation.

Mrs. Garner, who is chairman of the Detroit Committee, went into detail on the legal aspect of the Woman's Party's work for Equal Rights.

Mrs. Palmer, although not a member of the Woman's Party, told of the struggles and needs of the working woman, and plead for equality in industry.

Miss Whittemore spoke on the status of the Equal Rights Amendment, reading "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," before Congress.

CONGRESSMAN McLEOD asked many searching questions, and offered his complete support. He sponsored the jury service bill for women of the District of Columbia during the last session of Congress, and put forth every effort to have it passed as introduced, with men and women absolutely equal in their rights and responsibilities as jurors, but it was amended to make jury service optional for women. Women in the District of Columbia can simply say, "I do not choose to serve," and be excused from the jury without further reason.

Mrs. Whittemore, in pointing out the Michigan discriminations against women, listed the lack of equality in the mother's and the father's right to their children, the law providing that a husband owns his wife's services in the home, and controls her right to work outside her home, the disabilities of married women in making contracts, and the law which gives the husband superior control over property jointly owned by husband and wife.

MRS. WHITTEMORE also urged that "mothers' pensions" be changed to "children's pensions," and that benefits be payable to those who care for the child, whether it be father, mother, or other person.

Congressman McLeod is one of the youngest members of Congress, and he represents what is probably the largest Congressional district in point of population, in the country. His district is very powerful in Michigan, and contains more than four hundred thousand people.

The vigorous support of this young man will be indeed an asset to women in their struggle for Equal Rights.

Legal Inequalities Between Men and Women in France

By Katharine Ward Fisher

IN a recent pamphlet entitled "Legal Inequalities Between Men and Women,"* Marcelle Kraemer-Bach of the French bar gives a concise account of discriminations against women under French law. She treats these under three heads: "The Married Woman," "Paternal Authority," and "The Woman Citizen."

We learn that in France a woman is ranked by the law with the insane, the feeble-minded, and children, not by reason of her sex, but by reason of her marriage. Her status is based on a principle of the Civil Code: "The woman owes obedience to her husband." The Civil Code was inspired by Napoleon, who said, "Nature made women our slaves." Since 1789, when the rights of man received official recognition in France, a married woman has been under guardianship. This principle of the incapacity of a married woman is embodied in Article 213 of the Civil Code. It affects other statutes and results in the abuse of both the person and the property of a married woman, and in inequalities between the rights and duties of husbands and wives. The first reform proposed by Mme. Kraemer-Bach is the repeal of Article 213.

THE domicile of a French wife is wherever her husband chooses to live. If she leaves this place, she is considered to have abandoned him, which gives him grounds for separation or divorce. But if he leaves her, he does not according to law, leave the conjugal domicile, because he takes it with him wherever he goes, even if he goes to the home of a mistress! An unfaithful husband is liable merely to a fine, and to that only if the act of unfaithfulness takes place in his own house. But a wife who is unfaithful, no matter where, may be punished, even by as much as two years in prison. This sentence, however, is never given. But why keep it on the statute books? asks Mme. Kraemer-Bach. The partner of an unfaithful wife is subject to punishment, while the partner of an unfaithful husband is not. A husband is legally justified in killing a wife whom he surprises in a flagrant offense against the marriage bond. But no such rule applies to the wife who surprises her husband in a similar situation. The discriminations in favor of the man concerning what constitutes adultery, make it far harder for a wife to establish adultery as the ground for divorce.

The law of marital authority prevents a wife from making a theatrical or other contract, from joining an organization, or bringing suit in court, without her husband's consent. A case is cited of a woman who was unable to sue for damages for an injury, because of her husband's absence.

The right which the law gives the husband to supervise his wife's relations with other people and to read her correspondence, may prove highly embarrassing to a woman doctor or lawyer, although she may appeal to the court from her husband's unjustifiable or extreme use of this privilege.

The wife may not use her husband's correspondence, although it may come into her hands accidentally and even though it would give ground for divorce.

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*Les Inegalites Legales entre L'Homme et la Femme, par Marcelle Kraemer-Bach, Avocat a la Cour de Paris. Publications de l'Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes. Paris. Les Presses Universitaires de France. 49, Boulevard Saint-Michel. Prix: 1 Fr. 50.

The law will not permit a married couple to agree to waive marital authority, nor will it permit a husband to give his wife a general authorization to act freely. He must consent separately to each of her acts. A wife must have her husband's consent to get a passport. A woman whose husband went to Spain with another woman, taking his eight-year-old son along, had great difficulty in getting papers which would allow her to go to her child.

A WOMAN may not even make her will independently. The only thing, observes Mme. Kraemer-Bach, for which the law does not require marital authority, is the punishment of a woman for a misdemeanor or a crime. She is free to suffer any penalty imposed by the court. A married woman is totally incapable under the law in everything that concerns property. Without her husband, she cannot contract, buy, sell, mortgage, transfer, make terms, borrow, conclude a lease, bargain for repairs or for furnishings, accept a donation or a legacy. This principle, however, is subject to modification by the five different matrimonial regimes, any one of which may be adopted at the time of marriage. There is a legal fiction by which the husband is assumed to have given the wife a tacit mandate for the necessary current expenses for the family. Otherwise, according to the law, she could not do her marketing or shopping! The marriage contract most widely adopted in France is that of community of property acquired after marriage. It is less favorable to the wife than the community property laws in effect in eight of our western and southwestern States, in that in France the husband administers even the property which the wife had before marriage.

THE best matrimonial regime, in the opinion of Mme Kraemer-Bach is that under which the property of husband and wife is held separately. Under it, the wife administers her property and controls the income from it. She may not, however, alienate her real estate without the consent of her husband. She is liable for contribution to the expenses of the household. Mme. Kraemer-Bach urges women to adopt this regime, and favors making it the law that, in absence of a marriage contract, the regime of "separation of property" with community of property acquired after marriage shall be held to exist.

Since 1917 a Frenchwoman has been free to dispose of her earnings. But without her husband's authorization she is not free to exercise the vocation which produces these earnings. A married actress must have this authorization each time she signs a contract, and the husband may revoke it at will.

Bank's often make it difficult for married women to open an account or rent a safe-deposit box, even when they practice a profession or are married under the regime of separation of property. In this the banks go beyond their rights, but they are so imbued with the principle that a married woman is incapable that they tend to make no exception even when circumstances warrant it. For this reason some women do their business through foreign banks. Mme. Kraemer-Bach proposes to end these and other infringements of married women's rights by having banks, stock-brokers, and notaries instructed to observe the law of 1907, giving a married woman control of her earnings. She recommends further that if a husband continues to have the right to appeal to a judge in case the wife oversteps her rights, that a wife shall have the same right of appeal if he oversteps his. Revision of the bankruptcy law is also urged to adapt it to the demand of an era when the wife of a bankrupt often has resouces which are the product of her own work. She next discusses the discriminations with reference to "Paternal Authority."

ALTHOUGH the Civil Code says that a child is subject to the authority of the *parents* during minority, it declares: "The father alone shall exercise this authority for the duration of the marriage." This gives him the right over the education, custody, and discipline of a child as well as the right to his earnings and the legal administration of his property. The first breach in this exclusive paternal authority has recently been made by the amendment which gives the mother and father equal authority over the marriage of a child.

Even when the mother exercises the paternal power, as after divorce or the father's death, it is not the unlimited power which the father possesses. The remedy recommended is the sharing of the "paternal power" equally by the two parents, and the instituting of a court of domestic relations (*Juge de famille*).

Mme. Kraemer-Bach would have more equitable, though not absolutely equal participation by the parents in the control and care of children born out of wedlock and an extension of the right to establish paternity, which is now forbidden except in certain cases.

THE third and last group of discriminations are those made against women as citizens. At the time this pamphlet was written the new law concerning the nationality of Frenchwomen married to foreigners was in process of enactment. It permits a woman who marries a foreigner to remain French if the family domicile is in France. A woman already married to a foreigner may apply for restoration of nationality on condition that she lives in France and that her husband consents. While Mme. Kraemer-Bach considers this an excellent law, indicative of progress, she points out flaws in it. The possibility of a woman's keeping her nationality is subordinated to the place of domicile and to marital authority. There is no corresponding provision for foreign women who marry Frenchmen. She therefore recommends further legislation to the effect that a woman in any case may, if she desires, keep her original nationality, that a foreign woman who desires to become French by marriage shall go through the same examination that a man does on applying for naturalization, and that international legislation shall prescribe for all countries the same qualifications for naturalization in order to avoid inconsistencies and conflicts. She begins her discussion of women as taxpayers by saying, "The woman citizen is not considered by the State equal to man except in relation to taxation. The provisions of the tax-laws apply fully to her. However, there is still, if she is married, a strange deviation from equality in the administration of the tax law. It is not she who is responsible for the declaration of her income. The husband must make, in the lump-sum declaration of the family income, a statement of the income and even of the earnings of his wife (if she is engaged in a vocation which demands professional secrecy, how much is the word of a husband worth?), and it is he who incurs a penalty in case of deception or error."

IN criminal law, a woman is answerable for her misdemeanors and crimes, as a wholly responsible individual, according to the saying, "A woman is a minor as to her property, an adult as to her misdeeds." "A certain category of women," says Mme. Kraemer-Bach, "have even to answer for special offenses under a criminal justice applicable to them only. We mean the administrative regulations applicable to prostitutes, which are inspired by some very ancient texts. The man goes unpunished. The woman pays. In this domain, a return to legality would establish the reign of a saner and much more equitable morality.

"The fundamental rights of suffrage and eligibility to office are denied to the French woman citizen. When they are granted to her, she will repeal the provisions of the Civil Code which sentence her to incapacity and will become a free being, equal to her destiny."

Press Comment

Equal Rights Campaign

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She also spoke of the international fellowship of women, and of the desire of women of each country to help women of other countries throw off the subjections under which they now live, and of the desire of women of each country for help from the women of other countries in obtaining complete freedom.

Laura Berrien spoke of the July convention of the National Woman's Party, and likewise of the sentiment for Equal into her hands accidentally and even though it would give ground for divorce.

The law will not permit a married couple to agree to waive marital authority, nor will it permit a husband to give his wife a general authorization to act freely. He must consent separately to each of her acts. A wife must have her husband's consent to get a passport. A woman whose husband went to Spain with another woman, taking his eight-year-old son along, had great difficulty in getting papers which would allow her to go to her child.

A WOMAN may not even make her will independently. The only thing, observes Mme. Kraemer-Bach, for which the law does not require marital authority, is the punishment of a woman for a misdemeanor or a crime. She is free to suffer any penalty imposed by the court. A married woman is totally incapable under the law in everything that concerns property. Without her husband, she cannot contract, buy, sell, mortgage, transfer, make terms, borrow, conclude a lease, bargain for repairs or for furnishings, accept a donation or a legacy. This principle, however, is subject to modification by the five different matrimonial regimes, any one of which may be adopted at the time of marriage. There is a legal fiction by which the husband is assumed to have given the wife a tacit mandate for the necessary current expenses for the family. Otherwise, according to the law, she could not do her marketing or shopping! The marriage contract most widely adopted in France is that of community of property acquired after marriage. It is less favorable to the wife than the community property laws in effect in eight of our western and southwestern States, in that in France the husband administers even the property which the wife had before marriage.

THE best matrimonial regime, in the opinion of Mme Kraemer-Bach is that under which the property of husband and wife is held separately. Under it, the wife administers her property and controls the income from it. She may not, however, alienate her real estate without the consent of her husband. She is liable for contribution to the expenses of the household. Mme. Kraemer-Bach urges women to adopt this regime, and favors making it the law that, in absence of a marriage contract, the regime of "separation of property" with community of property acquired after marriage shall be held to exist.

Since 1917 a Frenchwoman has been free to dispose of her earnings. But without her husband's authorization she is not free to exercise the vocation which produces these earnings. A married actress must have this authorization each time she signs a contract, and the husband may revoke it at will.

Bank's often make it difficult for married women to open an account or rent a safe-deposit box, even when they practice a profession or are married under the regime of separation of property. In this the banks go beyond their rights, but they are so imbued with the principle that a married woman is incapable that they tend to make no exception even when circumstances warrant it. For this reason some women do their business through foreign banks. Mme. Kraemer-Bach proposes to end these and other infringements of married women's rights by having banks, stock-brokers, and notaries instructed to observe the law of 1907, giving a married woman control of her earnings. She recommends further that if a husband continues to have the right to appeal to a judge in case the wife oversteps her rights, that a wife shall have the same right of appeal if he oversteps his. Revision of the bankruptcy law is also urged to adapt it to the demand of an era when the wife of a bankrupt often has resouces which are the product of her own work. She next discusses the discriminations with reference to "Paternal Authority."

ALTHOUGH the Civil Code says that a child is subject to the authority of the *parents* during minority, it declares: "The father alone shall exercise this authority for the duration of the marriage." This gives him the right over the education, custody, and discipline of a child as well as the right to his earnings and the legal administration of his property. The first breach in this exclusive paternal authority has recently been made by the amendment which gives the mother and father equal authority over the marriage of a child.

Even when the mother exercises the paternal power, as after divorce or the father's death, it is not the unlimited power which the father possesses. The remedy recommended is the sharing of the "paternal power" equally by the two parents, and the instituting of a court of domestic relations (*Juge de famille*).

Mme. Kraemer-Bach would have more equitable, though not absolutely equal participation by the parents in the control and care of children born out of wedlock and an extension of the right to establish paternity, which is now forbidden except in certain cases.

THE third and last group of discriminations are those made against women as citizens. At the time this pamphlet was written the new law concerning the nationality of Frenchwomen married to foreigners was in process of enactment. It permits a woman who marries a foreigner to remain French if the family domicile is in France. A woman already married to a foreigner may apply for restoration of nationality on condition that she lives in France and that her husband consents. While Mme. Kraemer-Bach considers this an excellent law, indicative of progress, she points out flaws in it. The possibility of a woman's keeping her nationality is subordinated to the place of domicile and to marital authority. There is no corresponding provision for foreign women who marry Frenchmen. She therefore recommends further legislation to the effect that a woman in any case may, if she desires, keep her original nationality, that a foreign woman who desires to become French by marriage shall go through the same examination that a man does on applying for naturalization, and that international legislation shall prescribe for all countries the same qualifications for naturalization in order to avoid inconsistencies and conflicts. She begins her discussion of women as taxpayers by saying, "The woman citizen is not considered by the State equal to man except in relation to taxation. The provisions of the tax-laws apply fully to her. However, there is still, if she is married, a strange deviation from equality in the administration of the tax law. It is not she who is responsible for the declaration of her income. The husband must make, in the lump-sum declaration of the family income, a statement of the income and even of the earnings of his wife (if she is engaged in a vocation which demands professional secrecy, how much is the word of a husband worth?), and it is he who incurs a penalty in case of deception or error."

IN criminal law, a woman is answerable for her misdemeanors and crimes, as a wholly responsible individual, according to the saying, "A woman is a minor as to her property, an adult as to her misdeeds." "A certain category of women," says Mme. Kraemer-Bach, "have even to answer for special offenses under a criminal justice applicable to them only. We mean the administrative regulations applicable to prostitutes, which are inspired by some very ancient texts. The man goes unpunished. The woman pays. In this domain, a return to legality would establish the reign of a saner and much more equitable morality.

"The fundamental rights of suffrage and eligibility to office are denied to the French woman citizen. When they are granted to her, she will repeal the provisions of the Civil Code which sentence her to incapacity and will become a free being, equal to her destiny."

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Rights she found among business and professional women when she attended the convention of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Emile Berliner, chairman of the District of Columbia Branch, presided and introduced the speakers. A meeting of the District of Columbia Executive Committee preceded the tea.

The District of Columbia Branch will give a card party at National Headquarters on Saturday evening, December 3. Reservations should be made at National Headquarters.

D. C. Chairman Returns

MRS. EMILE BERLINER, chairman of the District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party, returned last week from a summer in Europe and immediately conferred with Woman's Party leaders and District of Columbia officers on the plans for Equal Rights bills for the District of Columbia in Congress this session.

Margaret Lambie, Emma Wold, Mabel Vernon, and Burnita Shelton Matthews met with Mrs. Berliner at tea to discuss the bills providing for equalization of specific rights for women of the National Capital to be introduced into the Seventieth Congress.

The District of Columbia Committee met preceding the tea at National Headquarters on Sunday to plan the winter's program of legislative and educational activity.

Texas Chairman at Headquarters

RENA MAVERICK GREEN, chairman of the Texas State Branch of the National Woman's Party, visited National Headquarters on November 5-7 to confer with leaders of the Texas legislative campaign and the plans for work for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Mrs. Green had just returned from three months in Europe, most of which was spent at Geneva watching the League of Nations. Her daughter, Rowena, came to Washington from Antioch College to meet Mrs. Green in Washington, and Ann Maverick, a niece who is in a Washington school, and Helen Mott of Oswego, New York, a relative of Lucretia Mott, came from the University of Pittsburgh to be with Mrs. Green.

Several members of the National Council conferred with Mrs. Green at tea on Saturday. Mrs. Green plans to organize a branch of the Students' Council of the National Woman's Party in Antioch College.

Mrs. Green visited her sister, Lola Maverick Lloyd, an Illinois leader of the Woman's Party, in Geneva.

Mrs. Smith Addresses Buffalo Branch

A MEETING of the Buffalo Branch of the Woman's Party was held at the home of Mrs. Mary Rumsey Movius, State vice-chairman of the Woman's Party, at her home, 55 Nottingham Terrace, Buffalo, on October 27, at 3 P. M., at which Mrs. Clarence M. Smith talked on the Equal Rights campaign and plans were made for more active work in Buffalo. It was also decided to have a luncheon in Buffalo on November 19. A tea followed the meeting.

Maryland Visits the Food Show

THE National Food Exhibit came to Baltimore this fall, during the first week of November, and through the courtesy of Miss Ethyl Clarke, manager for the show, floor space was given the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party. Maryland then went to work and wrought a garden with trellises and autumn leaves and wicker furniture and chrysanthemums and sold Equal Rights literature therein, inviting those of the many thousands who visited the exhibit and seemed interested to come into the booth and bide-a-wee and learn about the Party and its aims.

Tuesday afternoon, November 1, was *the* afternoon of the Maryland Branch. Tea was served in the garden, with Mrs. William G. Thompson as hostess. At half-past three o'clock Mabel Vernon spoke, and in spite of the fact that one talks against very heavy odds at a food show with noise, confusion and talking going on all around in the vast hall, Miss Vernon never spoke more convincingly or more forcefully. Her voice carried conviction to her deeply interested hearers, who listened intently to her story of the justice of Equal Rights and of the unjust laws on the statute books discriminating against women in the so-called Free State of Maryland.

It was distinctly noticeable that in the masculine minds found wandering by the garden one question was uppermost—on that apparently hung their allegiance to or opposition against Equal Rights—how about alimony? Will the female of the species pay alimony to the male? If the National Woman's Party will come out strongly in favor of alimony for the husband, the "stronger sex" will come marching in a hundred thousand strong. This was the impression given by these gallant men. Some of the younger men, however, waived the alimony question, bought literature and asked questions thoughtfully and intelligently. Notable among these was a young lawyer who knew something of the thirty discriminations against women in Maryland, and was most appreciative of the literature given him on the subject. Strangely enough, a well-known woman lawyer and politician took an entirely different attitude, saying with a contemptuous and supercilious air, "Women have all their rights now," and passed on, an uninterested and self-opinated person.

From a newspaper man came the suggestion that a men's auxiliary be formed as an adjunct to the National Woman's Party. What would be the opinion of the Maryland Branch if he and a friend—a Baltimore and Ohio man—started such an auxiliary?

The Maryland Branch feels after its week of rather strenuous work that the effort was worthwhile. Contacts were made with people who otherwise would never have known of the existence of the National Woman's Party. Ideas were exchanged, lasting impressions given, the promise of some new members, and fresh impetus gathered to carry on the work.

Mississippi Chairman at Headquarters

ELLEN CRUMP, chairman of the Mississippi Branch of the National Woman's Party, arrived at National Headquarters last week to interview Mississippi Congressmen on the Equal Rights Amendment as soon as they return to Washington. Burnita Shelton Matthews, member of the National Council, also of Mississippi, entertained Mrs. Crump at tea at National Headquarters on November 8.

New Jersey Branch Interviews Congressmen

HELEN PAUL of Moorestown, New Jersey, sister of Alice Paul, is leading a delegation to call upon the Congressman from her district to ask his support of the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress this year.

Minnie S. Karr of Newark, treasurer of the New Jersey State Branch; Margaret Laird of Newark, legislative chairman of the Branch, and Mrs. Victor Loddy of Newark are seeing the Essex County Congressmen.

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